

News

ISIAQ 2016: Summer School and Indoor Air Conference in Ghent, Belgium

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In July of 2016, I attended both the 1st International Society of Indoor Air Quality and Climate (ISIAQ) Summer School (2-3 July) and the 14th International Conference on Indoor Air Quality and Climate Change (3-8 July).

The summer school was held prior to the Indoor Air Quality Conference and brought together 34 students from 5 continents. There were seven prominent speakers:

- William Nazaroff, University of California Berkley.
- Andrea Ferro, Clarkson University.
- Andrew Persily, National Institute of Standards and Technology.
- Pawel Wargocki, Technical University of Denmark.
- Brent Stephens, Illinois Institute of Technology.
- Martin Tauble, National Institute of Health and Welfare.
- Ken Parsons, Loughborough University.

Topics such as indoor air quality and exposure, ventilation, microbiology and the built environment, as well as thermal comfort and human perception provided for interesting and informative discussions.

The organising committee not only made sufficient time for learning but also for socialising. A highlight was a field visit to the Flemish Administrative Centre, also known as the 'Virginie Loveling Building', for a practical demonstration on indoor air quality auditing of a sustainable building. We had plenty of time to explore the beautiful city of Ghent, Belgium and also get to know the other participants and their specific fields of interest were within indoor air. The summer school ended on a high note with the opening ceremony of the IA conference.

The conference itself hosted more than 800 participants from around the world. Themes included fundamental surrounding indoor air; healthy and sustainable buildings; abatement and reduction; emerging issues in indoor air science; smart houses; developing countries; innovative solutions in practice; and standards and codes. Topics were multi-disciplinary in nature and ranged from workshops to interactive poster sessions. It was difficult to choose which session would be attended next!



ISIAQ Summer School 2016: Summer school student from five continents coming together to build knowledge on aspects surrounding indoor air



ISIAQ Indoor Air Conference 2016: Poster presentation given on respirable particulate matter in the indoor environment of low-income settlements on the South African Highveld (Photo credit: Aneka KJaviņa)

The week spent at the conference gave ample opportunity to network with scientist from across the globe. This opportunity enriched my knowledge surround indoor air by magnitudes, and for that I thank Professor Stuart J. Piketh for sponsoring me in my knowledge gaining endeavours.